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Committee of the Bundestag. He is in favor of a firm policy on Berlin.

Dr. Weitz, President of the German Red Cross, called on me this afternoon. He suggested the four Governments in control of Spandau Prison give the three prisoners a Christmas holiday. I can imagine he will receive short shrift from the Soviets if he makes such a plea to them. After visiting me, he went off to consult the British and French Ambassadors before taking the matter up with the Russians.

We dined tonight at the French Embassy. There were 42 guests, most of them Germans. I had a talk with Erhard about the latest developments in the coal situation here, also an interesting talk with Dr. Schneider of Duesseldorf about art collecting.

When we arrived home rather late, we found Joe Alsop had just come in after a hard trip from Cairo where he ~~was~~ interviewed Nasser. He thought Nasser was dejected and especially apprehensive over the situation in Iraq. A couple of days ago he seemed to have backed a coup there against Quasim and failed. He feels Quasim is falling into the hands of the Communists who, according to Joe, Nasser thoroughly dislikes.

Wednesday, December 10, 1958

Fought as usual today for firmness in Berlin. I see no way

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for the U. S. Government to avoid a decision, to be made known privately to the Soviets, that we are ready to preserve our rights in Berlin by force. This means an ultimate recourse to war, not waged in Berlin but between the US and the USSR. It would be ~~very~~ difficult to persuade our allies to adopt such a course, but unless we have the firm intention, if driven to it, to employ force no matter what the risks, we will never in my opinion reach a satisfactory arrangement with the Soviet Government. However we should decide, there should be no publicity or use of threats, but our stand should be conveyed privately to Khrushchev so that ~~he~~ ~~they~~ at least he would make no miscalculations.

Thursday, December 11, 1958

I went to the Foreign Office to sign a treaty on aviation. Afterwards, von Brentano took me into another room, and I later sent the following telegram on our conversation. (Page 137 following.)

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